

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/753,601

Examiner

Jenise E. Jackson

Applicant(s)

MASAKI, KENJI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/16/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 5, 7, 14 and 15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

1. The Examiner contacted Mr. James A. LaBarre, Attorney of record, to consult Mr. LaBarre to do an Examiner's Amendment. Mr. LaBarre decided to cancel claims 3-4, and 12-13.
2. The following claims are cancelled:

Claim 3. An output system having a data processing device and an output device for outputting data in a specific format, which is sent from the data processing device, a prohibiting controller for prohibiting data from sources other than an application program running on the data processing device to be output to the output device, but allowing data from the application program to be output to the output device, by setting a value which is different from an ordinary value for outputting data to the output device, in response to a data output request to the output device from application program.

Claim 4. An output system as described in claim 3, wherein said prohibiting controller sets said different valued in a specific register.

Claim 12. An output method used in an output system having a data processing device and an output device for outputting data in a specific format, which is sent from the data processing device, receiving a data output request to the output device from an application program running on the data processing device; and setting a value which is different from an ordinary value for outputting data to the output device in response to the data output request to the output device from application program, so as to prohibit data from sources other than application program to be output to the output device, but allow data from the application program to be output to the output device.

Claim 13. A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program run on a data processing device for sending data to an output device to be output in a specific format, receiving a data output request to the output device from an application program running on the data processing device; and setting a value which is different from an ordinary value for outputting data to the output device in response to the data output request to the output device from the application program, so as to prohibit data from sources other than the application program to be output to the output device, but allow data from the application program to be output to the output device.

Reasons for Allowance

3. In the previous office action dated 10/19/06, the Examiner stated that the limitations, of “bypassing a print driver”, is an allowable feature. Claims 1, 5, 7, 14-15 are allowable for the following reasons are listed below:

4. The following limitations are allowable, “a second controller responsive to the first controller for calling an illegal printing preventing function incorporated into the driver software if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via the driver software, and for prohibiting the data from being sent to the output device if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the driver software”, an example of prior art that fails to disclose or suggest these limitations are Francis. Francis discloses maintaining security of a printer and its user by having a secure smart card key. The printer has an identification card printer and has an externally accessible smart card encoder that can be used for initializing a smart card that forms a key. The externally accessible smartcard encoder is to read the smartcard and allow or prevent access. The first password usage of the smart card key is to enable printing

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by a selected identification card printer. The ability to enable password protected printing only is provided initially in a computer program for the printer drive computer which converts computer images into digital data for printing cards. Francis also discloses printing forgery or counterfeit documents or monies from being printing, but does not disclose a controller for determining if the data is to be bypassed by the driver software. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Francis of, "a second controller responsive to the first controller for calling an illegal printing preventing function incorporated into the driver software if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via the driver software, and for prohibiting the data from being sent to the output device if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the driver software".

5. Kuroyanagi fails to disclose or suggest, "a second controller responsive to the first controller for calling an illegal printing preventing function incorporated into the driver software if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via the driver software, and for prohibiting the data from being sent to the output device if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the driver software". Kuroyanagi discloses the print server control section receives a printing job output from the personal computer through the network interface, and stores it in the printing job storage section. The print server control section checks whether a password for the server specified in advance is included in the printing job. Only when the password for the server is included, the printing job is stored in the printing job storage section. Then, the print server control section sequentially outputs data to the image input and output apparatus and other units according to printing destination data and output priority data included in the printing job. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Kuroyanagi of,

“a second controller responsive to the first controller for calling an illegal printing preventing function incorporated into the driver software if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via the driver software, and for prohibiting the data from being sent to the output device if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the driver software”.

6. Kujirai fails to disclose or suggest, “a second controller responsive to the first controller for calling an illegal printing preventing function incorporated into the driver software if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via the driver software, and for prohibiting the data from being sent to the output device if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the driver software”. Kujirai discloses when a printer driver issues an authentication request, the client application transmits authentication information received together with the request to the application, and receives the authentication result, and sends it back to the print driver. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Kujirai, of “a second controller responsive to the first controller for calling an illegal printing preventing function incorporated into the driver software if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device via the driver software, and for prohibiting the data from being sent to the output device if the print request instructs data to be sent to the output device so as to bypass the driver software”.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jenise E. Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3791. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) alternate Friday's.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



June 21, 2007



TAGHI ARANI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

6/22/07